

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. (Currently Amended) A signal input and output apparatus for issuing a control signal from a signal processor to the outside by one of a plurality of controllers through a transmission path, and controlling said signal processor by one of said plurality of controllers on the basis of a control signal entered from the outside, comprising:

a single transmission path along which a plurality of different types of apparatuses can be connected, each of said different types of apparatuses issuing a different type of control signal and receiving control signals from a corresponding one of said plurality of controllers; and

signal discrimination changeover means for discriminating the type of control signal entered through the single transmission path corresponding to one of said different types of apparatuses, generating a discrimination signal, supplying said discrimination signal into the signal processor controller, and selecting one of said plurality of controllers corresponding to said discriminated control signal to control the operation of the signal processor controller[[,]];

wherein input and output of plural control signals of different types are processed through said single transmission path, said single transmission path supporting two-way communication of said plural control signals, each of said plural control signals having different input and output amplitudes; and

wherein discrimination of the type of control signals in said signal discrimination changeover means is carried out on the basis of an amplitude of the control signal at a coupling to said signal discrimination changeover means of the transmission path for an input and output of control signals.

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Claims 2-3. (Canceled)

3/4. (Original) The signal input and output apparatus of claim 1, wherein
said signal discrimination changeover means changes over the control system of
the control signal of a type other than the one discriminated according to the discrimination
signal so as to be inactive.

3/5. (Original) The signal input and output apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
one of said plural control signals is an RS-232C signal.

4/6. (Currently Amended) A signal input and output method, being a signal input
and output method for issuing a control signal from a signal processor to the outside by one of a
plurality of controllers through a transmission path, and controlling said signal processor by said
one of a plurality of controllers on the basis of a control signal entered from the outside,
comprising the steps of:

providing a single transmission path along which a plurality of different types of
apparatuses can be connected, each of said different types of apparatuses issuing a different type
of control signal and receiving control signals from a corresponding one of said plurality of
controllers,

discriminating the type of control signal entered through the single transmission
path corresponding to one of said different types of apparatuses,

supplying a discrimination signal in accordance with said discriminated type of
control signal into the signal processor controller,

DI selecting one of said plurality of controllers corresponding to said discriminated control signal to control the operation of the signal processor controller, ~~and~~;

inputting and outputting of plural control signals of different types and processing these control signals through the single transmission path, said single transmission path supporting two-way communication of said plural control signals, each of said plural control signals having different input and output amplitudes;

wherein discriminating the type of control signals is carried out on the basis of an amplitude of the control signal at the transmission path for an input and output of control signals.

Claims 7-8. (Canceled)

5 9. (Original) The signal input and output method of claim ~~6~~⁴, further comprising:
a step of changing over the control system of the control signal of other type than the one discriminated according to the discrimination signal so as to be inactive.

6 10. (Original) The signal input and output method of claim ~~6~~⁴, wherein:
one of said plural control signals is an RS-232C signal.
